THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 10,371.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1865.

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

THE SOUTH.

SECRETS OF THE REBEL SECRET SESSIONS

Resolutions Proposing to Send Peace Commissioners to Washington Regularly Pending in the Rebel House of Representatives.

Jeff. Davis Accused of Endeavoring to "Intimidate the Advocates of an Honorable and Peaceful Settlement of the War."

The Movement Denounced as Irregular and Disorganizing, Ending in Division, Distraction, and Ruin.

Rumored Changes in the Rebel Cabinet.

RELEASE OF HANGMAN FOOTE.

Opposition to the Repeal of the Rebel Exemption Laws.

THE REBELS "HAVE NOT BEGUN TO FIGHT YET."

They Have Seven Hundred Thousand Fighting

Whites Still in Reserve,

The Rebel Congress.

MONDAY, Jan. 16, 1865.

was called to order at eleven A. M.

The Straker decided that this was not a question of the House.

The gentleman could only proceed by leave of the House.

At. Ora, under leave of the House, rose to a personal explanation. He had the clerk to read an article from the Sentinet, of the 14th inst., headed "Treason." He then said:—Mr. Speaker—The editor of this paper is the public and private printer of this House, and it is the commonly received organ of the Executive. This is my apology for noticing the slanderous article which I have had the clerk to read. It is apparent to this House, and to those who are familiar with our proceedings, that the article is intended as a criticism upon the report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted by me on last Thursday. It is no less then than a grave charge of treason against that committee, and an implication of like import against the members of this House, who were cognizant of the substance of the report, and voted to receive it in secret session. I trust that the reputation of the members composing the committee is sufficient to satisfy the country that the article is false and slanderous. The d-riberations of the committee upon the report were presided over by the ven-rable, pure and distinguished member from Virginia, Reves. Would he have so presided from week to week where treason was plotted? Would he have voted, as he did in open session, to go into secret session to receive that report? Would his colleague (Mr. DeJarnette), General Atkins, of Tennessee, Mr. Witherspoon, of South Carolina, Mr. Turner, of North Carolina, and Mr. Smith, of Alabama, have given their manction to a treasonable report? Are they capable of treachery of the most infamous character? Are they "traitorous Congressmen?" Can it be that they have brought forward "a disorderly, ruinous and fatal proposition"—"reprehensible and intolerable," and having "neither dignity, honor nor safety," in 11? But of the Virginia delegation, Messrs, Rives and De Jarnette were not alone in voting to receive the report: Mr. Wickham, Mr. "neither dignity, honor nor safety," in it? But of the Virginia delegation, Messrs. Rives and De Jarnette were not alone in voting to receive the report. Mr. Wickham, Mr. Baldwin and Mr. McMullin voted with them, aware at the time of its substance, and thus they, too, fall under the rod of the power behind the throne of the Rendind. In refuting this calumny avainst members of this House, it is unnecessary to divulge the contents of the report, or the action of the House thereon, although it is with me (as announced when I presented it) a matter of indifference whether it should be considered in open or secret session. If the writer of the article ever saw the resolutions, he has knowingly faisited them. If he has not seen them, but supposes them to be as he states, then, according to his own report, he betrays gross ignorance in asserting that "a resolution to open irregular negotiations, through commissioners, with Lincoln, for peace," would constitute treason, and greater crimmality in presuming to arraign worthy and patriotic men for something of which he is ignorant. Why should they be subjected to this malignant criticism? For the sake of the argument, let it be conceded that they have propos d to said commissioners to Washington "to op n irregular negotiations for peace." These commissioners might be sent with no other power than to confer and consult with the authorities there on terms of an honorable peace, with instructions to report the results of such conference to the President and to this House. Such negotiations would be "irregular," and yet they might, I think would, if ratified by the results of such conference to the President and to this House. Such negotiations and this result "as treachery of the most infamous character?" From the supposed relationship of this journal to men in power, it may have been intended, in indulging in bitter demunication, to have the effect of intimidating the adocutes of an honorable and particular to some feath minimality of the supposed relationship of the specia

formity.

When Mr. Orr had finished reading the foregoing—

Mr. LESTER, of Ga., moved to suspend the rules it order to allow him to introduce the following resolu

Whereas, on the 14th of this month, there appeared in the columns of the Richmond Sentineta correspondence over the signature of 'Q..' and headed with the words 'Treason,' 'Treason,' 'Treason,' 'Preason,' 'Treason,' 'Preason,' 'Preason,' 'Treason,' 'Treason,' 'Treason,' 'Preason,' 'Pre

On the motion to suspend, to allow the introduction of the resolution, resulted, ages 32, need 36.

A two-thirds yook being required to suspend the rules, the resolution was not introduced.

Mr. Araxes, of Tenn. thought all such newspaper articles unworthy of codec. He cared nothing for the charges of the correspondent, nor for the opinion of the editor who endorsed them, but this paper was under-stood to be the organ of the administration, and if this

was the case, then he would say that the administration had lent itself to a most infamous culumny on the motives of gentlemen on this floor. The resolution he had offered on this subject had no squinting towards treason. If any gentleman on this floor thought so, let him rise in his seat and say it. He had, from the highest patriotic and prudential considerations, passed by a thousand errors of the administration. He had not publicly assailed the administration, but the article in the Scatinel was evidently based, in part, on a resolution he had offered on this subject, and, of course, alluded to himself. He did not desire these resolutions to be considered in secret session, but was willing to have them published to the world. But if the charges referred to alluded to him and his resolutions, he pronounced them infamously false.

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Mr. Barksdalr, of Miss., desired to state a matter of fact in connection with this subject.

Mr. Richerst, of Va., I object.

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Mr. Richerst, of N. C., hoped the gentleman would withdraw his objection, and allow the gentleman to proceed.

Mr. Richer moved to suspend the rules so as to allow him to state a fact.

The motion was agreed to—ayes 43, nocs 17.

Mr. Barksdalr then said that the House presented the extraordinary spectacle of permitting itself to be diverted from its pressing, legitimate and solenn duties by an anonymous article, the strictures of which were based upon what was asserted to be mere rumor. The statements of the writer were not endorsed by the intelligent and patriotic editor of the Sentinel. He had simply referred to the rumors on which the censures of the correspondent were based, without avouching their correctness. Members had asserted that the Sentinel was understood to be the organ of the President, and on this assumption had claimed for the communication and editorial the importance which they attached to them. The President speaks to Congress and the country in his official communications. Upon the highest authority he (Mr. B.) pronounced the statement that he is responsible for newspaper articles, or that the Sentinel is his organ, false.

Mr. Arkins (interrupting) explained that he had said the Sentinel was understood to be the organ of the President.

Mr. Barksdale replied that it was to that very point his

Mr. Arkins (interrupting) explained that he had said the Sentinet was understood to be the organ of the President.

Mr. Barrsdale replied that it was to that very point his remark was addressed. He repeated that the statement, whether direct or implied, that the Sentinet was or is the organ of the President, or that he is responsible for its conduct, is utterly destitute of truth.

Mr. There inquired by what authority the gentleman from Mississippi makes this declaration.

Mr. Barrsdale—By the highest authority, and I will not permit it to be called in question.

Mr. Smith, of Ala, said—I should not, myself, have paid any attention to the article in the Sentinet. I should have allowed it to pass in silence, as I have ever made it a rule of action to let editors alone. But the vote of this House, in refusing to allow the introduction of the resolution of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Lester), places this matter in a more serious spect. I consider that vote as to some extent endorsing the Sentinet. As long as that vote stands as the sense of this body I can take no part in its deliberations. I say this in perfect respect to the members here, and I do not wish my withdrawal to be considered as at all contemptuous, but dictated soiely by that self-respect which I feel, and by which through life I have endeavored to be governed.

Mr. Chilzon die not construe the vote refusing to suspend the rules in order to the introduction of the resolution, when so many important matters demand the attention of the House, as endorsing the article referred to.

Mr. Arkins, of Tenn, concurred in the opinion that the vote on the introduction of the resolution did not indicate that the House, as endorsing the article referred to. He had called on any member of the House who thought there was anything treasonable in his resolution to say so, and no one had so expressed himself.

Mr. Gray, of La., stated that he had voted against the suspension of the rules, not because he believed the imputations contained in the article to be just,

take his seat.

Mr. McMullin—I desire to enter my protest against—
The Speaker—The gentleman must take his seat when
the chair so orders.

Mr. McMullin (taking his seat) said (amid the interruptions of the Speaker's gavel), I intend (rap, rap) to
enter my (rap) protest (rap, rap, rap), on the (rap, rap),
journal. I know my rights and will maintain them.
(Loudand continued rapping.)

(Loud and continued rapping.)

THE SENTINEL'S COMMENTS ON THE DEBATE.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Jan. 17.]

On Saturday we published a communication over the signature of "Q," which stated that reports in circulation charged a certain movement on the part of some members of Congress, which movement the writer considered inadmissible in the highest degree. That writer—be it said for the information of such as are curious about the source of such articles—is a gentleman of the highest character and intelligence, and though not an original secessionist, is ardently devoted to the cause of Confederate independence. He holds no relations to the government in any of its branches or departments, and he much oftener censures the executive administration than commends it. He wrote simply as a high spirited, patriotic Virginian, solicitous as to the honor and safety of the country.

tion of a movement so irregular, disorganizing and fata ss that which was alleged. Our remarks, like those of our correspondent, were hypothetical. Being avowedly based on the report which he stated, they went for nothing, if that report was erroneous. We owe the reader an apology for stating a principle so obvious as that contained in our last sentence. But ob-

based on the report which he stated, they went for nothing, if that report was erroneous.

We owe the reader an apology for stating a principle so obvious as that contained in our last sentence. But obvious as it is, it proved too deep for certain members of Congress yesterday. Perhaps we should pardon much. There is no charm about high office that confers the qualities necessary to adern it. Equanimity and clearness of perception are not the gift of the elective franchise any more than statesmanship. Hence it was that honorable members deait with epithets yesterday as children play with edged tools—to their own detriment. It was more than any of them did or could do to deny that there was such a report in circulation as was alleged by "Q." The existence of such a report was the only fact alleged by him. This, therefore, presented the only opportunity for an issue of fact, and this was avoided. For ourselves, we made no statement, but argued only on hypothesis. Yet, gentiemen so far forgot the respect due to their position as to employ inapplicable epithets, which were as Noah's dove, that found no resting place till it returned to the ark. "The wounded pigeons are known by their factiering." Several members seem to have supposed that "Q s" chance shot must have been aimed especially at them selves. The revelations of what has passed in secret explanations, were certainly very unusual; but we are gled that the House was content to allow them, and we give them the benefit of a publication. By an inspection of these disclosures, particularly that of Mc Orr, it will be seen that runor, as related by "Q," was much nearer the truth than she frequently is as to the terms of the proposition in question. Mr. Orr commits the solecism of at once denomicing and violicating the runor. It is the judgment of "Q" and of the Sentenel upon the runor, and not be runor itself, with which he resuly joins issue, when we come to understand him. His argument would have been no weaker if he had seen his point more clearly. It is unnec

is not one of them.

When it attempts this, it engages in an irregular, disorganizing course, whose only end is division, distraction and ruin. It is had enough for private citizens to attempt to usurp functions otherwise appointed to be exercised, but for a body like the House of Representative to set so mischievous an example would be fatal. We would have nothing left to expect but universal anarchy and distraction, and a contusion like that of Babel. Every citizen who, in spirit, is whipped and subjugated—and there are some out of Congress, perhaps Mr. Orr knows whether there he any such in Congress—would be for seizing the helm and heading the ship for "peace." They might perhaps call it "an honorable and peaceful settlement of the war." but, logically, it would mean a reconstruction and submission on the best terms that could be begged.

We trust the House of Representatives will give the country the inspiration of a brave example; and that, as a first step, they will promptly vote down the propositions which, we are now regularly informed, are pending in that body.

Of Mr. Loster's "Long Tom," loaded with whereases, and ending with a resolve, intended for a bomb, we have only to say that we will freely forgive him if he will thunder so at the Yankees.

The difficulty of Mr. Smith, of Alabama, is with the House, not with us. We will say, however, that we think the dariele in the Sentinel was an attack from the President. Mr. Smith will bow gracefully to its opinion.

Several of the gentlemen were much exercised by the idea that the article in the Sentinel was an attack from the President. Mr. Smith will how gracefully to its opinion.

Several of the gentlemen were much exercised by the idea that the article in the Sentinel was an attack from the President. Mr. Smith addes attacencen would seem emphatic enough to quiet their suspicion or take away their excuse. We will add, however, that the Sentinel neither is, nor affects to be, nor is willing to be, an "organ" for any one. It is an independent journal, t When it attempts this, it engages in an irregular,
When it attempts this, it engages in an irregular,
thereanizing course, whose only end is division, dis

[From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 17.]
Reports of a reorganization of the administration were
rife yesterday. It was said that Seidon would leave the
War Office and be replaced by Breckinridge; that Northrop was to quit the Commissary Department, &c.—all
rumors, believed by sanguine people only.

BRECKINGIDES TO BE SECRETARY OF WAR.

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 17.)

It was reported yeasterday that John C. Breckingidge was made Secretary of War of the Confederate States. We could obtain no confirmation of the report in official circles, but there are reasons for believing it. General Breckingidge was reported to arrive in the city last night.

Henry S. Foote's Troubles.

ACTION OF THE REBEL CONGRESS IN HIS CASE.

MONDAY, Jan. 16, 1865.

ACTION OF THE REBEL CONGRESS IN HIS CASE.

BOUSE.

The rules were suspended to allow the Special Committee on the Arrest of Hon. H. S. Foote to make the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the communication of the President in relation to the arrest of the Hon. Henry S. Foote, a member of this House, by the military authorities, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:

That the said Henry S. Foote has been absent for some time without leave, and his alleged attempt to pass our lines was without the knowledge or approbation of this House, and before absenting himself he indicated his purpose to withdraw from Congress. Your committee are, therefore, of the opinion that the good of the country would not be subserved by the forced attendance of the said member upon the sessions of this House; but that, under all the circumstances of the case, it is expedient that the military authorities discharge him from custedy.

Resolutions requesting the President to release Mr.

dient that the military authorities discharge him from custody.

Resolutions requesting the President to release Mr. Foote from arrest, to allow him to go North, saying that Congress had nothing to do with the matter, were seperately rejected.

The resolution of Mr. Akin, of Ga., saying that no privilege of the member from Tonnessee had been violated in his arrest, and leaving him in the hands of the military as a private citizen, was rejected by a vote of 35 to 36.

The House then adopted the following by a vote of 37 to 36:

Resolved, That the report of the Special Committee is the judgment of the House.

And then, without transacting any more very important business, the House, at 3½ P. M., adjourned.

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FOOTE RELEASED ON A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 17.]

Judge Haliburton, of the Confederate Court for the Eastern district of Virginia, on vesterday issued a writ of habeas corpus on the petition of Hon. Henry S. Foote, a member of the Confederate House of Representatives from Tennessee, commanding Captain Hugh S. Daggett, Provost Marshal of Frederickburg, to bring before the Judge the body of Henry S. Foote, on Thursday next, and to show cause why he should not be set at liberty. Mr. Foote, in his petition, states that he had been arrested and held in custody by order of Captain Daggett, who professed to be acting by the order of one James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, &c. Happilly this matter had been settled by the House of Representatives, to whom it was referred by the President, declaring that they are of opinion that the good of the country would not be subserved by the forced attendance of said member upon the sessions of the House; but that, under all the circumstances of the case, it is expedient that the military authorities discharge him from custody. We presume Mr. Foote has already been set at liberty.

The Opposition to Dayle' Repeal of the

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DEBATE IN THE REBEL CONGRESS ON THE CON-

SCRIPTION.
SATURDAY, Jun. 14, 1865.
The Conscription bill being up, the following debat

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SATURDAY, Jan. 14, 1865.

The Conscription bill being up, the following debate occurred:—

Mr. Masemall, of Ky., said that if this House intended by their legislation to break up the army and break down the cause, he intended that this country should know it. The real purpose of those who were putting on this bill amendment after amendment, was to defeat it, and they were determined, if the "fifteen negro" clause was left out, to have no bill at all, rather than to see it done. He wanted the legislation of this House to be such that simply because a man paid a hundred pounds of beef and a hundred pounds of bacon for every negro he worked, he should not be excused from military duty. He wanted the rich man to understand that his son should go into the ranks and fight side by side with the poor man. He had no idea of letting certain classes of persons burrow in the ground while his country men and children were bleeding on the field of battle. He had no objection to make a clean succep of every man in this country, without regard to occupation or profession, and say that no man shall be detailed for anything, unless he be a skilled artisan whom the President may think is nec seary for the casting of cannon, making powder or something to kill Yankees with.

We have not yet begun to fight. We have men enough in this country to do all that is needful to free this people. Had he been Hood he would have pressed every horse in the State of Georgia and blockaded every road, employed the army in destroying every pound of subsistence in Sherman's front, and harrassed his rear and left nothing undone to defeat him. He was willing to go to any height to destroy, burn and devastate, and use every meaus, fair and foul, to destroy the Yankee nation.

Mr. Lastra, of Ga, moved to amend by inserting that the should report in lieu of it a provision that all persons who now are and were on the 17th day of February, 1964, engaged in agriculture, provided such persons give bond and security that they will furnish so much

long as the measure was for the good of the country and army.

Mr. Goode, of Va., offered a resolution that the bill and amendments be recommitted to the Military Committee, with instructions to report a bill putting into service all white male residents between the ages of seventeen and forty-five, and take away from the Executive the power of detai, except a limited number of skilled artisans and mechanics; that they repeal the fifteen negro clause, discharge from service all persons over forty five, and revise the present list of exemptions.

Mr. Ode, of Miss., wanted to amend the bill so as to limit the exemptions to persons over forty five years of age.

age.
Mr. Clark, of Mo., moved to strike out the clause dis

Mr. Clark, of Mo., moved to strike out the clause discharging from the army all persons over forty-five years of age. This was adopted.

Mr. Foster, of Ala, said that he had made a calculation that there were enough of men in the confederacy between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, to protect this government ogatest any enemy for forty years to come. There were seven numbered thousand persons in the confederacy between eighteen and forty-five years of age.

Mr. Locas moved to lay the motions to recommit, with all the amendments, on the table.

On motion the House adjourned.

On motion the House adjourned.

THE REPEAL MOVEMENT PINDING LITTLE FAVOR IN THE REBEL CONGRESS.

[From the Richmond Whig. Jan. 16.]

The House of Representatives have had under discussion for several days the subject of exemptions, with a view to diminishing the number of exempts, and proportionately increasing the strength of the army. In his message at the opening of the session the President recommended the repeal of all exemptions and the substitution of the system of details. This policy was also advocated at length by the Secretary of War, in his report. It rightfully finds but little, if any, focer in Congress. It is objectionable, to the extent of being wholly inadmissiable, on several accounts. We need only mention two or three of the leading objections.

First, the power to raise armies is a prerogative of the legislative department, and can be lawfully exercised only by that department. Congress alone has the right to say who shall go into the army, and, as a necessary consequence, who shall not be required to go. The duty imposed by the constitution is obligatory upon them, can be exercised solely by them, and cannot be department, without a confusion of the functions of the department, a disturbance of their spheres, and a subversion of the structure and system of the government. To the extent that the poculiar powers and duties of one department are abdicated by it and assumed by another, there is a disturbance of their spheres, and a subversion of the structure and system of the government. To the extent that the power in the one case is lodged in one head, while in the other it is distribution in the government. Republicanism, as we have hertofore main tained, differs from monarchy, not in the amount of power field and exercised under either form, but in the fact that the power in the one case is lodged in one head, while in the other it is distribution in the government. Congress would be guilty of a high broach of trust if it should invest the Executive with powers intended to be exercised by

to rexample, as judges, dectors, parsons, ac. And yet this is what we understand to be asked for by the President.

Another consideration, and the last to which we shall advert, that attracts disfavor to the proposition of the Executive, is that the system of details, as already undertaken to be practised by the Secretary of War, is believed to be the fruitful source from which most of the evils that now press upon the service have come. Widespread abuse is alleged, and discontent, demorralization and desertion to an alarming degree are charged as a consequence of a policy that cannot escape the imputation of favoritism and the suspicion of corruption. The figures upon this subject, some of which were brought out by Mr. Marshali, of Kentucky, in his remarks in the House on Saturday, are exceedingly suggestive, and would seem rather to invite a committee of investigation than to encourage an enlargement of the privilege of detail.

The main difficulty is in adjusting the matter of ex-

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in the field to confront the enemy, and men enough at home to provide subsistence for these in the field, and to answer the inevitable wants of society. Already there is trouble about subsisting the army. To diminish the number of producers and increase the number of consumers, by drawing still more largely on the agricultural classes to recruit the army, would be to duplicate the difficulty. That every man should contribute equally of his means and his services to the country, and that all should go into the field who cannot better serve the cause in some other way, is a proposition which all will admit. The law, as it now stands, with the excision of "the fifteen negro clause," which seems to be demanded by public opinion, comes as near to this requirement, we are convinced, as Congress can attain. We are, therefore, pleased at what seems the probability that, with the change mentioned, the law will be retained as it is.

To increase the army is a matter of high importance; but, prune the list of exempts as we may, only the most meagre results will be gained. Indeed, we do not see what remains for Congress to do in this way. They have already placed the whole available war-making power of the confederacy in the hands of the Executive. It is to the Executive, therefore, that the country must mainly look for reinforcements to the army. It is of the Executive they must inquire why so many escape conscription—why so many fit for service in the field still occupy shady places in non-combatant lines of duty-why so few negroes have been employed as teamsters, ambulance drivers, cooks, &c.—why one hundred and lifty thousand men are absent from the army without leave—why sixty thousand troops are permitted to be idle on the other side of the Mississippi—why armies are intrusted to inexperienced generals, to be wasted in bloody and bootless campaigned such questions as these will direct attention to the true causes that have rendered the recruiting of the army necessary, and will thereby show that reform is more needed

The High Price of Gold in Rebeldom—
What Causes it.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Jan. 16.]

Several accidental and temporary cases have of late conspired to aid the panic makers in appreciating the price of gold. The bill proposing to sequestrate the property of such persons as have voluntarily left the limits of the confederacy has set the friends and families of many of these upon turning their effects into specie, with precipitation and upon whatever terms. The same process of conversion by the negroes, free and slave, who have attempted flight or been preparing for it, has been no inconsiderable element in this local demand for gold. Added to these is the increased demand in the South, consequent upon the occupation of Savannab. The large quantity of confederate currency held by the citizens there, but not now available to them, has been seeking conversion into gold through every possible avenue of communication; and the effect of this sudden necessity has been to raise the price of specie in that quarter. The supplies here being drawn from the South, the advance there is of course felt at once in Richmond.

In addition to these thines, it may be mentioned that the breakage in our communications, caused by the freshets, has interrupted the transmission of funds to the government, and caused, for a few days, an interruption in the meeting of the demands which have mutured against the Treasury. The inconvenience of this has failen upon the public creditors. These various causes, in concurrence with the miserable croaking which has dispirited the people, have begotten a sort of panic, sense-less, because without any adequate grounds, yet mischievous, because tending to produce the evils which it flies.

Singleton Falls to Create a Sensation.

(From the Richmond Despatch, Jan. 17.)

Mr. J. W. Singleton, of Illinois, Yankee peace demicrat, and peace commissioner, is still at the Spottswoo Hotel. His presence in the city has not produced a greater of the

Rebel Reports of Rosser's Raid.
[From the Richtond Sentinel, Jan. 16.]
Gentlemen from the valley bring the gratifying report that last week General Rosser crossed the mountains and captured Beverly. Randolph county, including its garrison of seven hundred men, a large amount of commissury and quartermaster stores, and a great number of horses. Although no official report of this capture has been received, we have strong reasons to believe it is correct.

The Hegira of the Slaves from Richmond.
[From the Richmond Whig, Jan. 16.]

As Mahomet and his followers fled from Mecca before
the persecutions of the Arab idoliters, the sons of Ham
are flying from this city to avoid an imaginary impending conscription. The opinion obtains among them that

running off nightly in gangs. The military a have shut up the principal highways lead Yankee lines; but the negroes escape for the have shut up the principal highways leading to the Yankee lines; but the negroes escape for the most part through the woods. A few of the most diotic follow the roads and are captured. Mr. Jos. Mettert of Geary's cavalry, on Faturday night arrested on the Mechanicaville pike, about a mile from the city, James and Charles, slaves of Mrs. James Timberlake, of Hanover, who had in their respective market caris two negroes who were evidently prepared for a trip to Yankeeland. These negroes were John James, slave of Peter Webster, and John, slave of Dr. Edward Eppes. Mr. Mettert brought the four back to the first station house, when, on search, the two last mentioned were found to have one hundred and fifty dollars apiece in Confederate notes in their stockings, and each of them was wearing four or five shirts and three or four pairs of pants.

Release and Exchange of Union Prisoners.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 16.]

The Confederate flag of true steamer, which left Rockett's on Saturday, carried down to the federal steamer, in the James, thirteen surgeons, two chaplains, Lieutenant Colonel Hutchins, of Custer's cavalry; Major Owens, of the Kentucky cavalry; Captain Frey, a hostage, who has been up prison eighteen months. An equivalent has been given for him. Blair, the peace commissioner extraordinary, was a passenger on beard the steamer down, returning to Grant's lines; and Hon. Mr. Singleton, member of Congress from Illinois, who visits Richmond on his own private account, was a passenger on the return steamer, which arrived back on Saturday evening.

The following paragraph appears in two Rahmone papers simultaneously, and apparently from an official source:—

We are requested to state that the Olustee and the Shemandoah are armed vessels of the Confederate States navy, and commanded by commissioned officers of the Confederate navy. They are not "privateers," equipped and armed by private parties, but are regularly authorized by the government. To style them "priva-teers" sulperts the officers and crews to the risk, if caught, of being tried for their fives as pirates.

An Englishman Arrested by the Rebels as a Supposed Spy.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Jan. 16.]

An individual calling himself F. W. Robartes was arrested at the Spottswood Rotel. Saturday night, as a supposed spy.

An individual calling himself F. W. Robartes was arrested at the Spottswood Rotel. Saturday night, as a supposed spy. Robartes came to this city about ten days ago, and reported himself at the provost marshal's office, where, upon being interrogated, he represented himself as an Englishman, holding a commission as lieutemant colonel in her Britannic Majesty's service. When requested to show his papers, he replied that he had none, having been robbed in the valley of everything he possessed. Captain Dosswell therefore determined to purole him for his appearance at some future time, and menwhile proceeded to make inquiries concerning the soidsand English colonel. Not one of the numerous Englishmen at present in this city knew or ever heard of Lentenant Colonel Robartes, who, meanwhile, was enjoying himself by appearing nightly at the theatre, sperting a large pair of gold glasses, and himself arrayed in broadcloth made up after the latest and most approved patters. The suspicions of the authorities being aroused, Robartes was arrested at the Spottswood on Saturday right, when it was found that he was well supplied with miney and jeweiry, and also had in his possession a page strined "Phil. Sheridan, General Commanding Valley of Virginia." Accused was committed to Castle Thunder."

Refugees in Richmond Appealing for Aid. The Relief Committee of Richmond, in an appeal to the cilizens in behalf of the refugees in that city, says:—
"Richmond is filled with refugees from every portion of the confederacy, many of them the families of soldiers in the field."

High Prices of Living in Richmond.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 17.]

The restaurants and drinking saloons advanced their prices on Saturday, putting the rates a peg higher. The advance, they allege, is necessitated by the great rise in the prices of flour and provisions in the market. The bill of face in saloons that formerly cost \$10 now cost \$15, and no drinks are to be had under \$5. Perhaps it is well that the price of living has come to be defined at last. The thermometer can go no higher than 90; the currency may go to zero, but the charge cann at go above blood heat. This may as well be understood first as last.

Mrs. General Grant arrived in Baltimore on Tuesday

afternoon, en route for the headquarters of the arms where she expects to spend several days with her hus-

WILMINGTON

THE REBEL ACCOUNTS.

Comments of the Philosphers of the Richmond Press.

The Fall of Fort Fisher "A Blessing in Disguise."

The Closure of the Port of Wilmington Only Renders the Rebel Prospects Brighter Than Ever.

It Will Force the Confederacy to Depend on Its Own Resources.

It Will Render a Change of Rebel Leaders a Public Necessity.

It Will Bring Dismay to Blockade Bunners, but Courage to the Fire-Eaters.

The Capture of the Fort Closes the Last Port of the Rebels, Stops Blockade Running, and Insures the Fall of Wilmington,

What the Rebel Administration Paper THE PALL OF FORT PISHER A BLESSING IN DIS-

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 17.] The fall of Fort Fisher, we presume, closes the port of Wilmington. It commands the main entrance of the Cape Fear river, and will, we fear, enable the enemy to several other works still guard the southern chan-Wilmington. Some regard the fall of Fort Fisher as a disaster, while many are disposed to consider it a blessing a scaport has, from the beginning, done us more harm than good. They say that the goods imported through it have been of little good to us, while millions of dollars worth of our cotton has thence found way into the hands of our enemies. It is proper to add that, possibly, our force which, according to General Lee's despatch, was making a heavy demonstration against their rear, may retake the fort.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Jan. 17.] The Sentinel publishes General Lee's report of the ca ure of Fort Fisher, already given in the HERALD, and

ture of the fort was made by a boat attack in very large force, the land attack being the feint. We learn that the telegraph and torpedo parties all escaped. The hou assigned as that at which the capture was made is stated

What the Anti-Administration Papers Think. TRIBE.

AN ATTACK ON JEFF. DAVIS—A CHANGE OF MEN RENDERED NECESSARY BY THE REPEATED DISAS-

RENDERED NECESSARY BY THE REPEATED DISASTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY.

(From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 17.)
The loss of our best port by the fall of Fort Fisher will be no evil in the end. if it serves to spur the country on to decisive action. Nothing can be more ingiorious and deplorable than to sit still, harmoniously resigned and hopeful, while our resources and armies are gambled away in full view by a weak but presumptuous official.

Nothing is more ansured than make believe "good cheer and buncome "confidence" in the caco of manifest and fatal mismanagment. All the elegitence and all the blather in the world will not alter the intex or prevent people from thinking on them. The the people of this country of the control of the people of this country of the people of the people of the country of the people of the people

deprived themselves of the power to set aside his unlucky or incompetent agents, till he could be cajoled or frightened into permitting it.

All admit the error, but most are still unwilling to take the decisive step—a step leading to so many consequences—of a sovereign convention. Yet there is no other means so certain to obtain the force of the nation and to put a term to what the nation feels to be misrule.

other means se certain to obtain the force of the nation and to put a term to what the nation feels to be misrule.

Bragg the Evil Genius of the Confederacy—The Cotton at Wilmington Must be Destroyed.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 17.]

The star of Bragg once more lights the Southern sky, and attracts the gaze of men to the city in which his headquarters were set down when removed from Richmond. Notwithstanding the sign in the heavens, the fall of Fort Fisher is a most unexpected event. The late failure of Butler to make any impression there had made known to all the strength of the position; and the renewed hombardment of three days had confirmed the opinion of its impregnability. The brief statement of General Lee suggests the idea of a surprise. The account given by rumor is to the effect that when the assault of four o'clock had been repulsed, the commander and the garrison of the fort supposed, too soon, that the day's work was over. They had down to sleep, and the enemy were upon them before their dosing sentinels were awakened.

However these things may be, the fort is fallen, and, it is presumed, the port of Wilmington is closed. The capture of the fourn is not a necessary though a probable consequence. The port is eighteen miles away, the river is obstructed and fortified all the way up, and the siege of Wilmington hand fortified all the way up, and the siege of Wilmington hand form attack on the side of the land. Now, therefore, is the time to burn all the cotton in Wilmington which cannot be instantly removed. Very little can be removed, still less can be exported, and to let it alone is simply to prepare a bait for the enemy's attack and to offer a reward for the capture of the city. There is little probability of its insefulness to its owners. If the enemy gets within reach of it, all will be ruthlessly confiscated and the proceeds employed as a means to maintain the invasion of the country. The principle of self preservation dictates the immed ate destruction of all the cotton in Wilmington b

The Prospects of the Confederacy Heightened by the Loss of Wilmington.
[From the Richmond Enquirer, Jan. 17.]

At an early hour vesterday foreneon the intelligence of the fall of Fort Fisher was bruited about the streets, but the nature of the intelligence was so unexpected that it was generally discredited, until confirmed by the officeal despatch which we publish below. That the loss of Fort Fisher will bring dismay to the hearts of blockade runners there can be no doubt; but to the That the loss of Fort Fisher will bring dismay to the hearts of blockade runners there can be no doubt; but to the great heart of the confederacy it should be a source rather of renewed scal under the bright promet it afforts of the development of our own resources for the achievement of our independence. As a military accomplishment, the enemy will find in the capture of Fisher cause for legitimale congratulation, as in any other success, and the immediate circumstance is naturally one to be regretted by ourselves; but we do not know when an incident has occurred during the war which bears more strikingly the features of a blessing in disguise.

occurred during the war which bears more strikingly the features of a blessing in disguise.

The Confederacy on Its Own Resources. [From the Richmond Enquirer, Jan. 17.]

Fort Fisher has fallen, and the port of Wilmington will be closed. Blockade stock is at a discount, and no more cotton goes out of the confederacy. On the other hand, we have lost our last port by which we received supplies from abroad. Another disaster is added to our long list of defeats, and croaking has received another impulse. But, notwithstanding all this, the end is not yet by a great deal. Now, for the first tim, we are throom really on our own resources, and compelled to turn our attention to manufacturing what we need and to bringing down the shameful extravagance that has disgraced our people. Now the comforts and happiness of civilized life, will be denied the people, as they have been the army, and avarice no longer blight our hopes with its corrupting influence. At last our liberties will receive the undivided labors of our whole people.

While "Peace Commissioners" were coming and going, and schemes of submission were being concocted, the fail of Fort Fisher shall thoroughly arouse our people to the work before them, there will not be any cause to regret its loss. At any time these last four years it could have been captured just as easily as it has been. Butler could have been captured just as easily as it has been. Butler could have been captured just as easily as it has been. Butler could have taken it on Christmas day, but he did not because he was afraid.

It is to be expected that all the croakers will be greatly exercised by this disaster, but croaking does no harm to the cause; it only points out the "weak in the faith." It does not take one step towards submission, for those that are afraid of the enemy know well enough that they have greater cause to fear the milgination of the people and army at home. But there is a rumor, that comes from the North, to the effect that the Congress hear neglecting the public interest and deerve the fate which Cromwell visited upon a worthless Parliament. No man or men, in Congress or out of Congress, except the Executive, has any rightful power to entertain peace propositions. Those that take upon themselves to hold communications of such character with the public enemy are traiters, and should be and wiff be hung.

The vial of wrath seems not to have been completely exhausted with the fail of Savannah. Fort Fisher has also failen. We had expected this long since. Indeed, we do not see how it was possible for an isolated fortress to stand the reiterated attacks of such an armament as was brought against it. It fell at last by the assemble of overwhelming numbers. It could never have been taken by sea.

overwhelming numbers. It could never have been taken by sea.

We have had occasion frequently to remark that ill fortune never comes angly. When it once begins it is pretty mure to run its course. The only way to meet it is with an invincible firmness, which must, in the end, tire it out. This we hope and behave our people are prepared to do. It is wonderful, indeed, that we have any seaport remaining, that the enemy, possessing such a fleet as he has at command, and we have none at all, he did not sweep all of them before the second year of the war had been brought to a close.

The loss of Fart Fisher involves, we suppose, the stopping of the blackade rimining. In future, we shall no more importations from Europe. This will be a great in onventioned extrainly, but it by no means decides the question of independence or sulg gation. That question has yet to be settled on the battlefield, where we have nothing to fear as long as our enemies are not more than three to one.

The Confederacy can survive the loss of Fort Fisher, of Mobile, and of every other sesport in its possession. But it cannot servive the decay of spirit and the loss of

and they will continue to persevere. Whatever creak